

18335/P

# ESSAY

O N T H E

## PUDENDAGRA.

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By MARMADUKE BERDOE, M. D.

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Certè infinitarum ærumnarum est uterus et multis  
et incomprehensibilibus ferè affectibus premitur,  
heu! quot variis casibus quot discriminibus vitæ  
obnoxius, &c.

*Encyclop. Med. De Morbis Mulierum. C. 1. P. 859.*

DOLÆUS.

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B A T H:

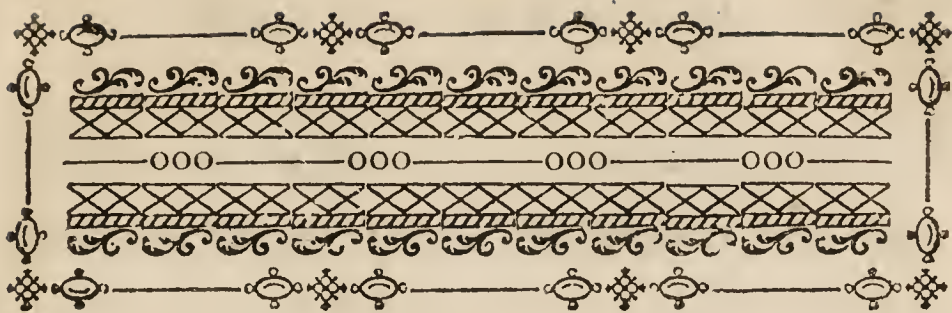
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





# DESCRIPTION

OF THE

## P U D E N D A G R A.




 THAT I may not be thought to multiply the medical catalogue with useless descriptions of disorders, I shall endeavor to shew, in this treatise, not only the probability of the existence of this disease, long before the venereal taint was known in Europe, but I shall also attempt to explain the necessity for distinguishing this complaint in our climate, and peculiar to women alone, from those which are venereal.

The pudendagra, is a disease far milder and less dangerous in its effects, in our northern climates, than what the same disorder would prove under a dry and hot one. Its origin may, as Ambrose Parè has mentioned, be analagous in its circumstances to those disorders under which he classes it. With us numbers of women are afflicted with the pudendagra, that have never had any venereal taint, and who have only fallen a victim to its cruel ravages, from imprudent and ill-timed indulgence of the venereal act. These dangerous consequences are produced from a primitive affection of the uterine nerves, so that either too rigid chastity, or a deprivation of the venereal act, may equally contribute. In short, it is an affection of the uterus alone, unconnected with any other organ in the beginning, but capable of affecting them all after a certain period.

If we may credit the common report of those gentlemen who have wrote the history  
and



and progress of the venereal disease, this disorder first spread its baneful influence in Europe after the discovery of the new world by Columbus. Others pretend it to be a native of the African climates. Some assure us, again, that it was known among the Israelites and Egyptians. To which opinion shall we give credit? Is it material to which we incline, if the disease we treat at present, is perfectly unconnected with that one which is call'd venereal? That the pudenda-gra and venereal infection might have formerly been the same disorder, is more than probable,—For in every age and climate, the women have been equally subject to an irregularity in the catamenia, or the uterus. If at this time, and in such improper seasons, they have suffered the embraces of the male, the consequence must undoubtedly have produced certain impurities in the matrix. These inconveniencies must have been more violent in the torrid zone and hot climates. It is for this reason we are allowed to conjecture, that

that the venereal taint was in its origin first produced from a real pudendagra : because it is beyond a doubt, that the uterus is the very source of all these complaints. Besides, in every society, whether civilized or not, there have been always more or less errors committed against the voice of nature's intentions. It is probable, therefore, that this disorder, when analagous with the venereal infection, took its rise in hot climates, and spread itself by degrees towards our northern districts. Among the Latins it might, as Ambrose Parè has assured us, be the same as what we now call venereal taint, but in our cold and distant countries, they make two distinct diseases. The one is derived from the consequences of an impure coition, by which persons in the most perfect health are suddenly afflicted with a train of disagreeable evils. The other proceeds from the affection of the uterine nerves, the loss of sensibility, and weakness of the matrix. The first is a real acute disorder in its attack ; the latter, the continued progress

gress of a chronical one. There are, again, other circumstances by which they differ. For example; women who receive venereal taints from copulation, are often attacked with buboes, or the *pterygomata* of the uterus, are affected with inflammatory ulcers; whereas, in the pudendagra, they are more occult, indurated, less painful and indigested, and the disorder is generally internal, in the spongy substance of the cellular-web of the uterus. The matter furnished by the ulcers of this last disease, is crude and unconcocted, and the patient scarce ever complains of buboes: for buboes commonly appear in the pox, according to Dularens,\* because, says he, the liver is affected; and according to Hippocrates, they take their origin from the nobler parts.

Dolæus, speaking of venereal taints, says, “ Narrant porro originem traxisse,  
“ quod

\* Dularens. P. 277. † Sect. 2. Lib. 6. Epid.



“ quod Indi Peruviani cum omnès generis  
 “ besttiis concubuerint, et ab ista diversitate  
 “ fermentum aliquod novum ortum fuerit,  
 “ quod hunc morbum producere potuit.”

Dolæus, speaking again on the origin of  
 this disorder, says, “ Sed nostra opinione  
 “ malum hoc ubivis suum originem habere  
 “ potuerit, quando sc-homines cum multis  
 “ scortis rem habuèrint, & ita facili marte  
 “ sibi contagionem hoc concilaire poterunt,  
 “ ob nimiam acrimoniam feminis huj vel,  
 “ illi.”

He tells us in another place, “ Aliis dicitur  
 “ etiam pudendagra.” From whence we  
 may imagine that the disorder, which the  
 Latins call'd by that name, was known in  
 their country long before the appearance of  
 Columbus in 1495, and became endemic in  
 that climate from the abuse of nature's gifts,  
 and raged, probably, with more violence  
 in the western part of the world at the same  
 time,



time, from a fimilar caufe join'd to the heat of climate.

The diforder which the Latins call'd pudendagra has, perhaps, exifted from time immemorial, and is, in all probability, connected with thofe which Hippocrates and the moft ancient phyficians have defcribed among the general titles of diforders of the uterus.\* Some moderns have followed the fame tract, and the admirable fyftem of the Helmonts, and their commentator Mr. Duncan, feems to have thrown a clearer light on the great probability of that general influence which the uterus has on every organ of the human ftructure.

Befides the fuppreffions of the menfes, that are occafioned by the unfatisfied defire of nature, which we fuppose to be a predifpofing caufe of the pudendagra, there are various

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others

\* De Morb. Mulier.

others which may contribute to its progress. An immoderate flux of the catamenia, or the fluor-albus, evidently promote the period of this disorder. Such affections of the uterus, tho' evidently different from what the Latins call'd the pudendagra, as some authors have pretended, are yet very similar as to their effects.—Or rather, this disorder was thought to be a more confirm'd and inveterate state of the uterus, when attack'd by those inconveniencies which we now call fluor-albus.

Dolæus, speaking of the signs of the fluor-albus, says, “ That in the Galenic schools, “ the debility of the uterus, (*uteri interperiem, et debilitatem*) was reckon'd “ among the causes of this disorder.”

Sylvius derives the origin of the fluor-albus from “ *Quidem sanguinis culpà, quoniam is tenuior vel acrior existit.*” (Here we see the chymist). And he says farther, “ Qui “ sanguis

“ sanguis sæpè talis redditur ob ærem æstu-  
 “ antem à sole, igne, balneo, &c.” (things  
 which manifestly disturb the nervous system)  
 “ item ob alimenta spirituosa et aromatica,  
 “ ob animi affectus, iram, item corporis  
 “ motum nimium, cursitationem, saltatio-  
 “ nem, frictionem, &c. &c.” Again he  
 says, “ Fermentum aliquod acido-austerum  
 “ in utero productum.—Diversitas humoris  
 “ in fluore-albo effluentis pendeat nunc a di-  
 “ versitate fermenti corrumpentis, nunc a  
 “ diversitate sanguinis corrumpendi, nunc  
 “ ab utroque.”—Hear Dolæus, P. 893.

“ Fluoris verò albi causam esse serum viti-  
 “ osum & in glandulis vaginalibus corrup-  
 “ tum, interdum purulentum sæpè verò se-  
 “ rosum ex glandulis uteri effluentem existi-  
 “ mamus.”

The pudendagra is not, properly speaking,  
 confirm'd, till the uterine nerves, having  
 intirely lost their sensibility, are no longer



capable of that predilection which is to distribute the catamenial flux. The same as when the hepatic nerves, or the proper sensibility (which is the life of each respective organ) of the liver, incapable of separating the bilious humor of the blood, leaves it to circulate unsecreted by its proper organ, and is thrown by its redundance upon the whole constitution. We cannot agree, notwithstanding the authority of Mr. Boerhaave, that the *uterus* was only destined to separate a certain portion of that plethora, which he imagined to be the true cause of the menstrual discharge; because if the consequence was a mere plethora of blood, then bleeding would always prove an advantageous remedy. But experience has confirm'd, that bleeding proves sometimes but a mere palliative relief, in women of delicate and tender constitutions, if it does not often, by a repetition, throw the weakened patient into more serious disorders. It is known to be dangerous to the last degree if frequently repeated. Or is the menstrual  
discharge



discharge occasioned by the action of the blood upon the sphincters of those ducts, which are supposed by some authors to be destined to this evacuation. Still more improbable that it should proceed from the rupture of the uterine arteries. Such systems are too remote from the simple laws of nature, to produce the desired effects. Does not the universal sensibility of the nerves offer to our ideas a more rational conjecture on the different functions of the human body? To consider them in the aggregate, as animated by the same vital principle in the origin, but to regard them when distributed to their respective organs, as possessing various degrees of that primitive sensibility, directed by different appetites. The most scrupulous observation confirms, in fact, that every organ has its own life, its tastes, and affections, and which seems proper to itself alone, independant of the universal *consensus* by which the whole human structure is enchained and united together. *Propria*  
*vivit*

*vivit quadra*, says the ingenious Dr. Fouquet, speaking of the sensibility of each organ. Now does any thing manifest these appetive faculties of the different organs in a more eminent degree, than their predilection of certain substances or fluids? Why should cantharides almost universally affect the urinary passages? Nitre diminish the rapid pulsations of the heart, or emetics excite their action chiefly on the stomach. If it were not, by a certain sensibility of the nerves in each respective organ, which, in the stomach, directs both the choice and quantity of our food; and in the liver secretes, by its appetive powers, the bilious juices from the blood. The same as the kidneys attract the urinary fluids, by a similar predilection, or the uterus that portion of the blood which is destined for the catamenia. In the perfect crisis of the menstrual evacuation, we are not even allowed to suppose that the humor which is excreted by the uterus, possesses the same heterogeneous qualities as that  
blood

blood which is evacuated by the veins of the arms and feet; I mean in the state of health. The different humors of the body must be previously elaborated by the concurrence of the whole nervous system, before the fluids can be properly concocted and adapted to the excretion of their respective organs. This equal and necessary action of the nerves, on the motion and distribution of the humors, is evidently necessary to their elaboration, before they are excreted even in the most perfect state of health. If, therefore, any nervous irritation, either predominates, or is sensible in the constitution, this elaboration becomes imperfect. By the same rule, when any organ of the animal œconomy is deprived of its natural tone of life, or its peculiar sensibility is affected, it then becomes incapable of attracting that particular humor which nature destines it to secrete. We have but too manifest proofs of the truth of this assertion, in certain disorders where the nerves of the kidneys, either are

incapable



incapable of their functions, or secrete only a limpid, unconcocted urine. In fact, the excretion of every organ is no more than a crisis, by which it separates a peculiar humor from the general mass of fluids, as the bile and pancreatic juices, or excretes an excrementitious one, as the urine, mucus of the nose, &c. The crisis, therefore, of particular organs, such as the excretory ones, are subject to the same phases, the same epocha, as the various diseases of the animal structure; that is to say, they must pass through the different periods of irritation, concoction and excretion.

The reader will undoubtedly have observed, that I have founded the origin of this disorder on the irritation of the nervous system, and on the debility, or the impaired sensibility of the uterine nerves. It is by no means a physical chimera, to imagine that almost every disorder of the human structure may be derived from the different affections  
of



of the nerves. Particularly so among the female class. The nerves are known to be the source of our sensations and affections; it is they alone which distribute the life to every different organ, and influence upon the general character of the animal œconomy. In short, the nerves are the messengers of our existence, and must consequently affect the whole disposition of the body. We shall endeavor to elucidate this matter in pursuing our subject.

The first general influence on the nervous system, is commonly a small degree of irritation, produced by the various affections of the mind. The ancients, well acquainted with the dangerous consequences of these affections, rank'd them among the class of non-naturals. It is in the refined and most distinguished part of society, that their influence prevails most apparently. Either the ambition of the courtier, the lucubrations and inactive life of the learned, the tender anxieties of women, or

the more turbulent and active life of the man of business, passed in profound calculations, stimulate the source of the nerves without the least remission. From this continued irritation of the diaphragmatic center and the brain, are produced those peculiar affections which distinguish the various classes of hypochondriac and hysteric disorders. So universal is this affection of the nerves, even in the state of the same diseases, that we may remark very different modulations in the pulse of those persons who lead a life of ease within the circles of great cities, and the robust and healthy peasant, remote from their seducing pleasures. In the former a certain fund of irritation may be observed to conceal the general characteristic of the disease, while in the latter it is the voice of nature alone which speaks, and manifests to us certain *rhythms* of the pulse in original affections, by those various modifications which may be distinguished by the adepts in the sphygmie art. For example, in the uterine crisis, where the nerves  
of

of the matrix are occupied in preparing the menstrual evacuation, it is scarce possible to be mistaken in the robust and healthy peasant; whereas in the lady of the gayer circle, tho' under the actual excretion of the catamenia, yet the peculiar rythm of the uterine pulse\* will be almost intirely obliterated by the great irritation of the nervous system. The different pathema to which a life of pleasure,

C 2

of

\* That every organ of the human body has a pulse peculiar to itself, is a point which at present is almost proved beyond a doubt. After Galen and Solano, Messrs. de Bordeu, Michell and Fouquet, seem to have confirm'd it. The last gentleman (in his *Essai sur le Pouls*,) has even given us the different characters of them, as they are impressed upon the surface of the artery, that is to say, that portion of it on which the four fingers are to be placed at the time of feeling the pulse.—It might, perhaps, be more properly stiled, the *pulsative space* of the artery.

M. de Bordeu, in his *Recherches sur le Pouls*, t. 1. p. 103, says, That the simple uterine pulse is commonly more irritated and unconstrained, than



of business, or of ease, continually expose the courtier, the man of pleasure, the gay lady, or the industrious merchant, are continued  
spasms

in its natural state, the pulsations are unequal, and the arteries seem to rebound under the fingers.

Dr. Fouquet gives the character of the uterine pulse (in his Essay, p. 101, c. 19,) as follows. The brachial part of the artery seems to swell or extend itself, and to flatten near the digital extremity: at this place may be felt an impression occasioned by the small bulbs which seem to flow in a regular succession towards the apophysis of the radius. It may be necessary sometimes to press the artery with a greater degree of force from the index finger, to discover a certain *formicofus* (*fourmillement grenu*) at its extremity.—The hæmorrhagial pulse is peculiarly characterized by this *formication*, or small round and very fluxile bodies, which seem to strike and break themselves at the artery, under the index finger.

Dr. Fouquet says they imitate the impression which the finger receives from the nob of a silent repeating watch; that is to say, the largest of these bodies seem to join with others in their course, from that side of the index finger, which answers to the opposed side of the medius finger.



ſpafms of the nervous ſyſtem, which debilitate the conſtitution, and lay the foundation of various diſorders.

It is now time to return to our ſubject.—  
The difference between the two diſeaſes will, perhaps, appear at preſent more clearly to our readers. For we derive the ſources of the one from a debility and an impaired ſenſibility in the uterine nerves alone, whereas the other depends on, an irritating and corroſive ichor or vitiating matter, which cauſes inflammation and ſuppuration within the cellular membrane, ſeizes on the lymph of the whole conſtitution, and ravages the very bones themſelves. The pudendagra may affect the conſtitution for years together, without ſpreading its baneful influence beyond the limits of the uterus; whereas venereal taints, if the leaſt neglected, immediately affect the glands, or ſhew themſelves different metaſtaſes, thro' the whole region of  
the

the \*cellulary-membrane, or what we call the mucual web. Besides the several examples which I have already given to shew the inconsistency of writers, respecting the source of the venereal disease, I shall beg leave to shew the contradictory sentiments of some other authors, much respected by their writings.

Paracelsus, in his lib. 2. p. 180. De Causis et Origine Luis Gallicæ, says, “Cœ-  
 “ lum ergo hujus morbi efficiens causa est,  
 “ in materia, Luxus scilicet agens: ipsum  
 “ namque

\* The uses of the cellulary-membrane are not yet sufficiently known in England, or does that name convey the same extended idea with what the French call the *tissu-cellulaire*, this last is more general in its effects than what Mr. Haller has call'd by the name of *tela-cellulosa*.—Every physical gentleman desirous of knowing what the extent of the word *tissu-cellulaire* is, will be satisfied in perusing a treatise of the celebrated M. de Bordeu, intitled, *Recherches sur le Tissu-muqueux*: printed at Paris, by Didot, on the Augustin's Quay.

“ namque ignis est, istiq morbi ignei latet

“ namq : hic elementum ignis.”

Burnet, in his *Thesaurus Medicinæ practicae*, says, the lues venerea, were called *pudendagra*.

Philo tells us the Jews were subject to the anthrax of the penis.—Celsus mentions the running ulcer of the urethra. If we may believe Mosan, he tells us in his system of physick, that the pox had the name of scabies hispanica, long before the siege of Naples. Sir John Floyer, in his essay on cold-bathing, says, it is probable that the leprosy of the ancients was the same with the French pox.—Aretæus mentions many symptoms of the pox, and Hippocrates speaks of the carbuncle of the urethra, cured by suppuration.

M. Lieutaud in his *Precis de Medicine*, seems to be of opinion, that the virulent gonorrhœa and the fluor-albus, may often be  
con-



confounded together, from the similitude of their effects. “ Cet écoulement (says he) “ est accompagné quelquefois de demangeai-  
 “ son et d’ardeur d’urine, ainsi que celui de  
 “ la chaude-pisse.”—Speaking again of the same disorder: “ L’écoulement dont nous  
 “ parlons, plus abondant après les règles, a  
 “ souvent un caractère très *equivoque*: la  
 “ matière en est, dans le commencement  
 “ douce et sans odeur; mais elle devient,  
 “ par le tems, âcre et fétide, rongant  
 “ même quelquefois les parties voisines, et  
 “ donnant lieu à des ulcères, qui peuvent  
 “ affecter la matrice: l’ulcération de ce  
 “ viscère et la simple gonorrhée peuvent  
 “ aussi exciter un écoulement qui ressemble  
 “ quelque fois si fort à celui dont il est ques-  
 “ tion que les plus clairvoyans s’y laissent  
 “ souvent tromper.” This last passage seems  
 to be confirm’d by what Burnet mentions in  
 his *Thesaurus Medicinæ practicæ*. Speaking  
 of the fluor-albus, says, the matter which  
 flows, “ adeo acris et adurens est, ut erodat  
 “ aut



“ aut leviter exulceret quascunque partes  
“ attigerit.”

Mr. Nevil, in his Treatise on the virulent Gonorrhœa, p. 107, says, “ I assert, that  
“ the writers on the venereal disease have  
“ not given us a true history of that disorder,  
“ its cause, the time of its first appearance” This gentleman acknowledges, likewise, that the fluor-albus flows through the hypogastric capillary arteries, which are the outlet of the menses.

From so many uncertain conjectures on the lues venerea, it should seem probable, that the origin and cause of this disorder were yet undiscovered.—The functions of the animal œconomy have ever been directed by the same universal agent. The enlightened world are sensible of this fact. They no longer attribute the causes of some disorders to the divine vengeance, but to their true source, man’s own imprudence. Beneficent

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



nature

nature, on the contrary, sent us into the world (I mean in our primitive state of innocence) without an ail. The physis of the human structure is health. Society changes this universal disposition, and the schools give various names to these changes. Hence the origin of all our diseases and infirmities, accidental one's excepted.—Various affections of the uterus depend on its own influence and the care by which it is conducted. If these cares are neglected, or its inclinations restrained, the state of illness is sure to follow. Although the evils such neglect produces are originally the same, yet climates and seasons change their customary appearance. For this reason the venereal taint, under the torrid zone, the pudendagra among the Latins, the fluor-albus in our own countries, were primitively produced by the same cause, although their effects have varied in different climates. The intent therefore of the present essay will be to shew how much the modern mode of living among  
women,

women, will tend to produce a disorder in our climates, fimilar to the pudendagra among the Latins.



*Predisposing Causes of this Disorder.*



 H E N we consider the human  


 W  species as enjoying the privilege  


 of his perfection, erecting itself  
 into societies, perfectioning the arts, and  
 calculating and foreseeing the object of its  
 wants, we are to look upon every individual  
 of this society as a different kind of being  
 from what he would have been in his pristine  
 state of innocence. We are to consider man  
 in the social world, and the savage, as un-  
 connected as it is possible to be in the same  
 species of beings. The one, govern'd by  
 the only instinct of his senses, follows their



indication through every scene of life; the other is taught from his infancy to become enslaved to various prejudices, the consequences of his education in the social world. Nature leads the one, the other is taught to govern and subdue the directive powers of her will. Certain *constraints*, which are by no means derogatory to those just and excellent rules by which the social world is governed, must inevitably expose our natural constitutions to various irregularities and infirmities. I do not mean those excesses into which the imprudent and ungovernable state of youth is led, when the venereal organs excite in the constitution their natural prerogatives, but I must pity that unhappy state of human existence, where the social laws command us to extinguish those inclinations, which nature never fails to inspire in youthful and healthy constitutions. From such manifest oppositions to the voice of nature, (however laudable the conquest of the unhappy sufferer ought to be considered among the virtues of the

the

the social world,) we must place one of the first disposing causes of the disease which is to be the object of the following essay.

The age of puberty is the dangerous period of our existence. It is in this age that the predisposing causes of the pudendagra so often manifest themselves, and produce the most dangerous effects upon the constitution. For as each organ of the human structure has its own portion of existence, its time of action, its different appetites and inclinations, so they predominate at certain periods more than others. In children it is the stomach; in the age of puberty the organs of generation; and at maturity the brain and diaphragmatic centre.—The age of puberty is oftentimes, for women, the epocha of various disorders. When the powers of the generative organs manifest themselves, they experience certain sensations hitherto unknown, a sympathy declares itself between the breasts and uterus, the latter draws to-

wards

wards its center its own portion of life, and the evacuation of the catamenia confirms the existence of this organ. But as this salutary and necessary evacuation is the most critical and of the greatest consequence to the individual, so is it the most subject to be affected and obstructed. The slightest passions of the mind, frights, irregular hours, anxieties, and colds, may obstruct the evacuation of this essential flux, and impair the due sensibility of the matrix, which in women govern the whole circle of the animal œconomy. The violent shocks given to tender and delicate constitutions, by certain efforts which the social laws require them to oppose to the voice of nature's calls, confirm and add to those slight convulsions with which the nervous system becomes constantly agitated. The uterus, therefore, on account of its exquisite sensibility, becomes first and principally affected. Its influence on the other organs of the body, spread through the whole frame a general spasm and disorder. If nature  
and



and the constitution are too feeble to promote the natural evacuation, then the unhappy patient falls a victim to a train of severe and disagreeable afflictions. In vain the medical art administers emmenagogues and stimulating medicines, when the nervous sensibility of the uterus is so much destroyed, that the organ refuses its office. For then the spasmodic influence of the affected nerves, will throw the redundant humor, first to one organ then to another, 'till it promotes a palliative evacuation. Such is the consequence when certain women evacuate the catamenial flux, by foreign and distant organs. As we read of some who have evacuated by the nose, others by the breasts, the canthus of the eye, or by the ear, as I myself have seen an instance in the hospital of Montpellier.\* What still more confirms the

\* Bernardus Verzascha, in the 13th of his Medical Observations, mentions the case of a nun, who excreted the catamenia by the mouth. He speaks

the idea of this predominating irritation and insensibility of the uterine nerves, is, that these unnatural evacuations are commonly periodical. They have continued sometimes for

likewise of a cloistered nun, who evacuated them *per dentis alveum*.

J. B. Soncinus, knew a woman who never had her menses by the matrix, but a periodical hæmorrhage from the right tibia,

T. Bartholinus, in his *Hist. Anatom. rarior*, mentions a similar case, and another woman cui ex angulo oculi menses fluebant.

Amb. Pareus, lib. 23. c. 52. after speaking of the dreadful consequences produced by the suppression of the catamenial flux, says, “Uxori meæ dum  
“ virgo effet, derivabatur et purgabatur per nares  
“ menstrualis materia.—Uxor Petri Fabri Castro-  
“ dunensis, mensium materia, se per mammas sin-  
“ gulis mensibus tanta copia exonerat, ut ei cibi-  
“ dendæ et exhauriendæ vix tria aut quatuor man-  
“ tilia sufficiant.”

I have often seen a woman in the neighbourhood of Bath, who has a periodical hæmorrhage from the end of the index finger of the left hand, if ever her courses are suppressed, or she is with child, and

for one, two, or three years, 'till the efforts of nature had brought on the desired crisis, and restored the primitive sensibility to the  
E matrix,

exposes herself to any violent passion of the mind. Before the blood issues from the orifice, the whole arm, agitated by the spasm, shakes involuntary, the pulse is unequal and fuller, the heat in this arm is superior to the other.—After the hæmorrhage, the heat diminishes, the patient feels her arm chill'd, and the pulse become slow, soft and weak.—If any styptick or healing plaister is applied to the orifice from whence the blood flow'd, she is immediately seiz'd with a sickness at the stomach.

Mr. Robert, in his Treatise of Physic, mentions the case of a lady, who had a suppression of the menses occasioned by a fall.—He observed that she complained of an uncommon kind of moving in the left hypochondre, nearly at each return of the months.—The spleen seem'd to move and become agitated, and gave her sometimes a slight degree of pain for two or three days, 'till vomiting blood from the stomach, relieved her from all her anxieties, and supplied the place of the catamenia, which the debilitated uterus could not secrete as before the accident. This gentleman observed that these revolutions did not happen by such uniform periods as when the hæmorrhage came from the matrix.



matrix, so that ever after it has performed its natural functions, and restored the suffering patient to her former state of health.

Disagreeable as such circumstances must prove to the individual, yet they are far less affecting than those which result from a total suppression of the menses. In this case the languishing patient is, perhaps, affected with a suffocation of the matrix,\* hard tumors form themselves upon the breasts, the hysterical passion predominates, and brings on fits and palpitations of the heart. In others the *uterus* becomes inflamed, the digestion weak, and the appetite palled. Sometimes a violent stranguary takes place, or the patient falls into a consumption, jaundice or dropsy. Such is the melancholy catalogue of those disorders which afflict the most beautiful and  
tender

\* Read, in his Treatise of Ulcers, p. 170. says, Cancers invade the matrix and breasts of women, by reason of the detention of the menstrua.

tender part of our creation. The more deserving of esteem, as oftentimes the whole tribe of these indispositions, and some of them which lead the youthful victim to the grave, are the consequence of those severe laws which society and female chastity command.—Let us consider this matter more amply.—At the age of puberty, the twelfth, thirteenth or fourteenth year, the volume of the breasts increase, the voice is affected, the venereal organs display their sensitive appetites, the circulation is gently stimulated, and a slight spontaneous inflammation is observed within the matrix. These are the symptoms which indicate the preparatory efforts of the organs destined to the excretion of the catamenial flux. Until the crisis is perfect the patient will oftentimes feel pains about the loins and head, perhaps the stomach being affected, as contributing part of its forces to the general evacuation, will throw off its contents by vomiting, and refuse nourishment. The pulse becomes contracted with a

small degree of irritation. At length the appearance of the menstrual discharge sets free the happy patient from her anxieties, and spreads an agreeable sentiment of hilarity thro' the whole constitution. Such effects produced by the due concurrence of the different actions of the venereal organs, strengthen the constitution, purify the system, and contribute to an universal and sure fund of health.

Such evacuations, therefore, when properly regulated, are useful to the whole animal œconomy,\* but on the contrary, when

\* Jacob Mosan, speaking of the menstrea, says, The health of all women dependeth especially on this necessary menstrual flux; yea all her chastity, fruitfulness and welfare.—General Practice of Physic, c. 18. p. 3.

Heurnius De Gravissimis morbis mulierum. p. 8.

Benè res erunt mulierum menstrualium, quibus benè respondent.



when unequally distributed, too abundant, or suppressed, they are productive of the most troublesome and disagreeable consequences. For the matrix has such an evident influence on the whole constitution, that (as Democritus has observed in his letter to Hippocrates) it is the origin of innumerable different diseases. Observation has but too severely confirm'd the truth of this assertion.\* And indeed the great quantity of  
nerves

\* The industrious Van Helmont, speaking of the uterus, says, "*Monarchiâ singulari potitur, leges præscribit: pollet et quodam brutali intellectu, unde furit, fremitque partes stringit, strangulat, non aliàs quam furore in illas concinatus.*" From such just observations, we are inclined to believe it to be intirely the effect of error, to attribute the menstrual functions to a plethora of blood. The matrix is an active being, it has its own life, its appetites and affections.

*Menſium enim, ſays Baillou, eruptionem organiſmus qui præcedit et multa ſymptomata quæ perturbationem à motu naturæ aut conatu in ciendis menſibus ſignificant.*

nerves distributed to the matrix, gives it a most exquisite degree of sensibility, and the spongiform texture of its parts dispose it, more particularly, to receive the various metastases from the general connection with the whole cellular-membrane. It is susceptible of the greatest tumult, and exposed to every kind of inflammation and obstruction. To return to our subject.

To the happy excretion of the catamenial flux, by the organs which nature has appropriated for that evacuation, succeeds an increased degree of sensibility in the part. The venereal organs display their appetive faculties; and demand their natural privileges. The individual becomes agitated by strange and unknown desires, she searches after the cause, and discovers it, but is forbid by every social law to gratify them. Nature, who knows no restraint, remains unsatisfied. Enslaved by certain bonds, honor suppresses the clamors of her instinctive voice. The period  
passes,

passes, the organs yield thir forces, and the conquest is crowned with richest garlands of merit. Happy, my fair countrywoman, was this the only trial of your virtuous inclinations. But alas, the revolving period assembles the scatter'd forces, and your commendable prudence is again put to the severe trial. The continued obstacles offered to the voice of nature, incite, therefore, an incipient and gentle spasm in the constitution. Perhaps such affection is increased by the ardor of the female passion. The flowery paths of love may lead the feeble victim into inclinations which are contrary to the will of her parents.—Disappointment, and restriction to that duty which the parental laws require, may still augment the general irritation of the nerves. The season of the catamenial flux returns, but nature, debilitated and confused in the principle of every vital function, divided in her powers between the general welfare of the animal œconomy,



œconomy, and the \**appareil* of the excretory organs, which being no longer able to oppose the same quantity of forces, the crisis becomes imperfect, and the menstrual evacuations are either impercepted or sparingly produced. In these imperfect excretions of the catamenia, we may place a manifest predisposing cause of the pudendagra. If we examine farther, we find the amiable sufferer oppressed by the cruel tyranny of a chlorosis, depraved appetite, suppression of the menstrual flux, suffocation of the uterus, inflammation and suppuration in the part; jaundice, dropsy, hysterics, or hectic fever. In  
others

\* The word *appareil* is of French extraction, which we are under a necessity of adopting, having no word in our language which is proper to convey the same idea. It is intended to express the first efforts of any organ or gland, by which it is put in action, either by a spontaneous inflammation, or an increased degree of sensibility. The erection of the penis is the *appareil* of the venereal organs, previous to the excretion of the seminal fluids.

others a cruel and consumptive disorder conducts the unhappy patient, by slow and flattering steps, to the latest period of existence. Unhappy mourners of a darling child, blame not the laws of providence with injustice, for cutting off the early blossoms of the blooming rose. Look into your own hearts, and examine if the delusive hope of a more advantageous match, or the dangerous avarice of an unfriendly parent, have not withheld the necessary portion of a lawful marriage, or thwarted the virtuous inclinations of an amiable daughter. If so, you may strew your mournful flowers on her youthful grave, to exculpate the mistaken zeal of an imprudent tho' fond parent. Alas! in this early stage of the disorder, the matrimonial bond alone can rescue the innocent sufferer.

Let us pursue the melancholy scene. As the nervous influence increases, the probability of the due excretion of the menstrual discharge becomes less certain. Its obstinacy

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may

may be more and more augmented, by the various causes which it may receive from the common accidents of domestic \*life. Sudden fears, a surprize, sorrow, or other pathema, must manifestly increase the nervous influence. The matrix communicates, by its universal sympathy, to a pathological debility of the nerves of the stomach, so that those necessary oscillations, which are so essential to health, are impeded between the stomach and the exterior organ of the body. The skin becomes deprived of its spring and elasticity, and the volume of the humors destined to circulate thro' the great space of the cellular-membrane, becomes interrupted. By this means one of the most important functions

\* La matrice en fureur, comme ayant un departement de la plus grande etendue, produit toutes sortes de maux : faute d'etre developpée dans la jeunesse, elle est sans action ; dans la vieillesse elle perd son jeu & devient un poids inutile, dans le moyen âge elle est dans un mouvement continu.

M. DE BORDEU.



functions of the animal œconomy is intercepted. The face, and the whole portion of the exterior organ, become pale and livid, of a green or yellow appearance. An extreme lassitude afflicts the patient. The irritation in the nervous system is so evident, that the heart palpitates on the least motion, and should the exercise be too severe for the patient, the temporal arteries pulsate also with violence, and the respiration becomes difficult. The frequency and irritation of the pulse indicate a nervous fever. A long and disagreeable pain is felt either near the fore or back part of the head. Sometimes the stomach refuses its office, and the appetite is so depraved, as to search after a food from green raw fruit, pieces of coals, chalk, &c. &c. Married women, subject to the irregularity of their catamenia, either become barren, if the suppression continues for any long time, or if they have children, they generally prove of a very tender and delicate habit of body. Should the menses appear in their due course,

and prove sufficiently abundant, and of a good quality, there is the greatest probability that nature will complete the cure without the aid of the medical art. The manifest effects of a legitimate marriage have been productive of the happiest consequences\* to virgins. Some in the perfect state of a chlorosis, have had an eruption of the catamenia from the first contact with their husbands, and others have considerably anticipated the period. If on the contrary the disorder gains ground, and nature becomes more obstructed, a total suppression generally follows; and the symptoms become more grave and perplexing. In this case it often happens that the uterine  
nerves

\* Aedenique congressus, si legitimè fieri possit, post deobstruentium remediorum usum erit utillissimus; illo enim calor naturalis in partibus naturalibus multùm excitatur quo uteri vasa impensè dilatantur. Et docet experientia, interdum prima conjugii nocte pallidis istis mensium fluxum excitari; aliis verò, quæ optimâ fruuntur valetudine, tempus consuetum anticipari.

RIVIERIUS, lib. 15, c. 1.

nerves are not only debilitated, but the sensibility of the matrix manifestly suffers.

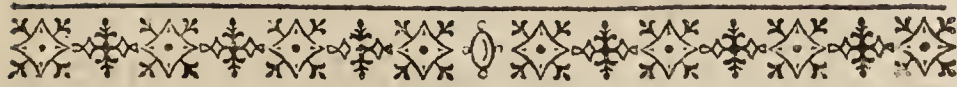
It is to be observed, however, that it is not our intention to describe the different diseases of the matrix, but only to take a slight view of the indisposition to which that organ is subjected, in order to give a clearer idea of the predisposing causes of the pudendagra, and its variation from the venereal malignity. The patient arrived at that period where the catamenial flux is suppressed, a train of disagreeable evils present themselves in consequence. The affection of the uterine nerves extend their influence to those even the most remote from them. The whole animal œconomy suffers. The different humors imperfectly elaborated, become crude and undigested. The nervous system is exposed to continual spasms. In fine, every excretion of the whole constitution becomes less perfectly evacuated. What are the consequences of such irregularities? If at the period, when  
the



















the menstrual flux should appear, the patient complains of a weight and pains about the loins, or the parts furrounding the matrix are slightly affected, so that there is reason to expect an excretion, an imperfect evacuation may follow. But even in this case it only indicates the general debility of the constitution and the uterine nerves. For instead of a dense and elaborated blood, which is the characteristic of the true catamenial excretion, it appears crude and indigested. We refer the reader to the first book of the diseases of women, by Hippocrates, if he is desirous of observing the farther progress of those inconveniencies which follow the suppression of the menstrual discharge.

Relative to our design, we derive the predisposing causes of the pudendagra, from those circumstances which we have already observed to contribute to the obstruction of the months, as in their total suppression we place an essential cause of this disorder.

*Predisposing*



*Predisposing Causes of the Pudendagra,  
from the fashionable Vice of Gal-  
lantry.*





 WE have already mention'd the  




 inconveniencies to which the  




 most deserving part of the  




 creation were expos'd, by  
 those rigid and severe laws  
 which virtuous chastity expects within the  
 social world, and we have sometimes known  
 an amiable sufferer led to the grave, a cruel  
 martyr to this unhappy disease. Have we  
 then seen virtuous innocence suffer in so just  
 a cause, without shedding round her shrine  
 both our incense and our offerings. With-  
 out setting up to her memory a statue of  
 purest gold, or decorating her marble urn  
 with

with richest garlands of never fading flowers. Such pleasing and tender remembrances of our pity for her unhappy lot, should repay, by grateful obligations, all we owe to so much perfection.

It will now be necessary to change the scene, to one where neither our pity nor esteem will have such reason to be put to so severe a trial.

Our ancestors; as wise and, perhaps, more prudent than we are in the present trifling age of gallantry, paid all that religious homage which was due to so sacred and useful an institution as the matrimonial contract.\* Nature, confirm'd by experience, saw the necessity of uniting (by the most pleasing of  
all

\* It was a custom among the ancients, to order the nurse to measure the size of the bride's neck with a thread, very carefully, both on the evening of the marriage, and the following morning. Catullus



all bonds) the virtuous desires of a fond couple. Their constancy and mutual attachments were rewarded by an exquisite and pure sentiment, by a continued and sure fund of health. Uniting in the possession of each other, all the fancied pleasures which

G incon-

alludes to this ceremony, in his poem on the marriage of Thetis and Peleus.

Non illam nutrix, orienti luce, revifens  
Hesterno collum poterit circumdare filo.

Perhaps, few phenomena in nature were unknown to the ancients, at least if they did not altogether account for them, in the most rational manner, yet they have been observed. It is probable, therefore, that the origin of this ceremony was owing to something more than mere caprice. Hippocrates has mentioned the swelling of the veins of the neck after the fruition of the venereal pleasures, and says, that young persons who begin to taste of them, are subject to hæmorrhages. This circumstance seems to corroborate our argument in favor of matrimony to young women who are irregular in their catamenia. For the swelling of the veins shews that the humors are drawn more towards the exterior surface of the

inconstancy can give, without tasting of those disagreeable vexations which so often attend it. They possess in each other every refinement of human life, and enjoy those pleasures which are the reward of innocence and virtue. It is here the pudendagra scarce ever shews itself, as on the contrary, from the imprudent use and abuse of the venereal pleasures, we find its malignant influence constantly predominate. Gallantry is the certain seed of this disorder, when sown on the fields of unlimited enjoyment. The sweet *voluptè* of the French, the prolonged fruition of the cytherean pleasures, are the flowery paths which

body, and must consequently accelerate their circulation through the whole cellular-membrane.

Stahl and Spigellius have both remark'd the swelling of the veins, and Ramazini explains the phenomenon of the swelling of the veins in the neck, by a revolution caused from an immoderate use of the venereal pleasures, which excess was call'd, among ancients, by the name of clinopale.

which seduce, and never fail to conduct the female adventurer to its disagreeable scene. It is in great cities that this disorder prevails with more violence than it does in remote and distant villages, where it would often remain unknown, if not for the unhappy few, whom we have mentioned in our first division, to be susceptible of a slight degree of the pudentagra.

Paris, the most gallant city of Europe, betrays the number of its sufferers. The general disrespect shewn to the matrimonial contract,—The unconstrained liberty in which married women are suffered to live,—The constant and immoderate use of coffee and liqueurs, high-season'd ragouts which inflame the blood and stimulate the nerves,—Frequent opportunities joined to either a real or imaginary desire, excite the venereal appetites at improper periods. The disgraceful term of *bêtise* (stupidity) which is given to that air of innocence and modesty



common to every young woman uninstructed in the rules of gallantry, is so disheartning to the younger part of the sex, that a girl at fifteen presumes to have got over such prejudices. Love is the constant subject of the day, and of the greatest part of their theatrical pieces. The rules which are to be observed, and the length of time which it is necessary to let the lover languish, become a real science. The different hours for love, the art of changing them, the breaking off from one lover to reinstate a new one, are the constant employments of some fashionable women, when they are disengaged from necessary visits. — *L'amant du matin*, has different privileges from *l'amant de la promenade*, as those of *l'amant de la foiree* are essentially different from *l'amant de la nuit*.

By such infatuated prejudices, the unthinking part of womankind bring on themselves those vexatious and disagreeable inconveniencies, whose seat is founded on  
the

the pudendagra. They pervert the laws of nature, debilitate the vital system, and become feverer victims to ill-judged and unlimited pleasures by forcing nature, than those amiable sufferers who have stifled and ceased to gratify a natural, because an unpermitted desire.—It will appear at present of what consequence it is to society, to govern or direct the venereal appetites by the most rigid laws. How essential it is to hearken to the voice of nature and to be governed by her. Since by a false zeal to stifle her incitements, may disturb the whole animal œconomy; and to think of disposing of her pleasures at our will, is to expose us to more dangerous inconveniencies. It is not a privilege of the rich or luxurious to direct their passions, dispose of them, or indulge them as they please; nor can all the refinements of society, all the improvements of art, serve to prolong our natural sensations, render them more exquisite, or subject them to our will? We may force nature to yield  
to

to our inclinations for a [time, but when we reiterate these efforts too often, the disagreeable consequences fall on ourselves, weaken the constitution, and abridge the period of our existence. In whatever state of life we are placed, prudence should guide every step in the flowery paths of pleasure; and if a *voluptè* may be permitted to enrich and heighten the manner of our existence, it ought only to be when the voice of nature demands, from the venereal organs, the consequences of their creation. Reiterated and profuse venery often impair the sensitive faculties, debilitate the nerves, impoverish the blood, and if continued for a long time, bring on a fatal atrophy or an incurable tabes in men; but in women, who are more particularly the subject of this essay, it destroys the natural sensibility of the uterine nerves, causes a general irritation in the constitution, and disposes them, more particularly, to that disagreeable train of inconveniencies to which the sex alone are exposed.

Early



Early matrimony is the most prudent preservative, when its laws are duly respected, and when two hearts are united by the same tender bonds. The children cement the natural affection, and enrich society with many respectable members. For every young man that lives without such attachments, is a perfect cosmopolite; if he is in affluent circumstances, he seeks to kill the wearied hours by pleasure and dissipation; but enchained by love, to the lot of some favorite object, he finds in matrimony a certain happiness which the gay world cannot procure him. His children afford new sensations to occupy his mind, and he becomes fix'd to some one part of the world, he gives himself up to an employment to procure a certain fund of wealth, and insure future happiness for his children, or present affluence to his family.

Aristotle has said, that the woman desired the male after fecundation. But we have  
 numbers

numbers of instances, where chaste and virtuous women, having conceived by a favorite lover, have resisted every seduction, every intreaty, careſſing only the fond idea of their firſt paſſion, have conceived with an almoſt virgin purity. This amiable conſtancy in women, (who have been united by fond inclination and a lawful contract) is ſuperior in ſuch bright characters to the ſubject of this eſſay. Our preſent object is only to conſider the abuſe of nature's gifts.

The ſeaſon of procreation among the animal tribe is, when the inſtinctive voice of nature ſpeaks by a gentle inflammation in the organs of generation ; a truth confirm'd by obſervation, and the accurate and laborious diſſections of Graaf, Gliffon, Hervey and others. The ſame inſtinct guides the female to the male, which having receiv'd ſhe becomes fecund, the inflammation ceases, and the animal is influenced by a new centre of ſenſibility, to which the general oſcillations of  
the

the humors naturally tend. The human species is too nearly rivall'd by brutes, in the privilege of being fecundated in any season, for every animal which nourishes its embryo by the natural heat of its own body, is capable of letting fall its young at any accomplished period of existence. We do not, however, find from observation, that they search repeated fruition. The reason perhaps is, they follow the voice of nature alone. Man, on the contrary, from the natural privilege of erecting himself into society, becomes capable also, by his refined sentiment, of correcting the sublime strokes of nature. He can display the beautiful proportions of the corinthian column, decorate the splendid saloon, or give a graceful air and deportment to the simple rustic. But can he form the muscular system with such proper modulations? Do children become more robust, better constructed, when bred up in the splendid nursery, with all the care they receive from their fond parents? Are they so

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healthy,



healthy, so robust, or so well form'd, as when they are left to the hand of nature alone? The inanimate parts of the world are subjected to the will of man, he can throw down the vast rock or turn the course of rivers; he has power also over many parts of animated nature, he can dispose of the life of animals, or of his own existence.— He can destroy, but it is that *omnipotent Being* alone, which governs and has form'd the universe, that has the power of creating. Continued destroyers of nature's gifts, at what a vast expence, O man! does she contribute to your pleasures. Perhaps it may be alleged by some persons, that man is capable of forming his own species, but oh! demi philosopher, where are his powers? Does not man follow the dictates of nature's laws? And is not the procreative act a gentle step towards the destruction of his existence? Do flowers shed their seeds but in decaying? Are there not beings whose death is the production of their young? Besides, has he found out  
even

even the formative powers of the womb, or the different changes which the foetus undergoes? Not yet. That discovery is still to make.

Our readers, perhaps, will be sensible of a long digression, we shall return therefore to our subject. As man has more particularly the privilege of disposing of his own existence, he can act oftentimes contrary to the dictates of his nature, he can pervert her order and destroy it. Ever in search of pleasing sensations, he suffers himself to be deluded by their influence. Dreading at the same time those which are disagreeable, he endeavors to turn his back on and shun them. Thus his life is one continued comparison of pleasure and pain. The venereal organs do too often govern him; and destructive as their irritation prove, yet he uses the cytherean pleasures with no other restriction than, perhaps, the absolute debility of their sentiment. Women, to whom nature has recom-

mended such a severe œconomy of her treasure, to whom she has so evidently mark'd out the stated periods for its indulgence, suffer more inconveniencies than the men. More especially if they indulge, not only the unlimited, but the varied offerings of different lovers.

We shall no longer wonder, perhaps, after this, that such a disorder as the pudendagra is found in the social world: whose baneful streams flow from different sources than those accidental calamities which afflict the most virtuous and deserving part of womankind. Are there then such monsters of human nature, whose blinded folly has led them to a scene so tragical and disagreeable? Observation has already confirm'd this fact to medical enquiries; and its frequency in great and populous cities, will, in a future age, confirm its baneful influence in Europe, (tho' not perhaps with the same violence) as it has formerly done among the Latins, and in the more eastern countries. It



It is to you, on whom fortune smiles, where opulence, ease and luxury, contribute to the pleasures of life, that the philosopher particularly addresses himself. For it is not from the advantages of birth, the means of satisfying and procuring new desires, that can give to man the privilege of directing nature's gifts. They are sacred to her alone, above the price of gems, or the purchase of an empire.

We should learn the instructive lesson, that every moment destroys some certain portion of the general sensibility of our nerves, and as we indulge ourselves in the enjoyment of nature's treasures, we hasten by as certain paths to the end of our existence. Such was the case when the Romans degenerated from their ancient austerity to a life of indolence and luxury.

When gallantry was introduced among them, after the Augustan age, it is more than probable,

probable, that the effects of that disorder, to which they gave the name of pudendagra, began to be manifested. This supposition seems confirm'd by the lascivious productions of several of their poets,—Ovid, Horace, Catullus, Martial, Tacitus and Juvenal, flourish'd in this age of gallantry, and have left us in their works, corroborating proofs of a disorder nearly similar to that we have been treating of.—During the reign of Heliogabalus, every vice which lasciviousness could invent, seems to have crept in among the Romans. It is no wonder then, that they should have been afflicted with a disorder, whose effects seem to bear a great analogy with what we now call venereal disease, and which have probably induced some authors to think them to be the same.

If the pudendagra has been produced by a luxurious mode of living, and an excess of gallantry, the disorder will oftentimes make a very rapid and disagreeable progress, notwithstanding

withstanding the patient may have taken those medicines usually prescribed for the symptoms under which it has appeared: so that oftentimes not only the patient, but the physician will be surprized at its obstinacy, and the latter change his prescriptions without effect, the disorder constantly gaining ground. In such case it will be more particularly necessary he should be informed of the moral character of the afflicted person: a circumstance of the greatest delicacy. Perhaps he may find, that from not knowing the source which has produced her disorder, she may still continue to indulge those pleasures for which she suffers, and which at present are so contrary to her cure. In such cases it is necessary to be very severe on the œconomy of the venereal pleasures, or to forbid them intirely, from which, with the general remedies, the disorder is sometimes subdued in a short time.

But if from neglect, a false delicacy, or from the hope of nature performing the cure herself,



herself, the disorder is suffer'd to increase, then the natural sensibility of the matrix is generally so much affected, as to lose its tone, becoming incapable of resisting to the force of the disorder, and the whole volume of the uterus is often affected.

In such case, and sometimes in the beginning of this disorder, should men taste of the venereal pleasures, with women thus circumstanced, they may find such moments followed by some of those disagreeable circumstances which arise from an impure coition; not indeed with the same severity. For in the present case, tho' they are disagreeable, yet they do not produce the dangerous circumstances of inflammation, *cordee* or the *ardor urinæ*. But then they differ in the effects they produce, relative to the different constitutions of the male and female.

Should a person be exceedingly susceptible of affection, from the sensibility of his  
nerves,

nerves, or oftentimes from the healthy and pure state of his constitution, and he delivers himself to the venereal pleasures with a person labouring under this complaint, he will sometimes find (I do not say always) a small inflammation arise some time after, at the extremity of the glans penis, or, more properly speaking, at the mouth of the urethra, from which will issue out a thin, white or yellow sanies. The pain it will occasion, perhaps none at all, or only trifling, without any ardor urinæ, or any of those disagreeable pains in the testicles or loins, which generally indicate the true venereal infection.

From these circumstances it will evidently appear, how imprudent it must be, to treat all kinds of runnings, or even ulcers which are brought on by copulation, as venereal infections, and in consequence to follow the same uniform method of cure.

Ambrose Parè, in his treatise on the lues venerea, copied from Thierry de Hierry, says, that every ulcer which comes on the penis after coition with women, is not to be call'd venereal. In the same case we are to make a distinction between the running, or ulcers which attack the penis from an infection of the pudendagra, and those produced from a manifest venereal taint. We shall farther shew the necessity of such distinctions, when we speak of practical observations.

### ANATOMICAL DISSECTIONS.

**D**URING the time I was employed in my anatomical pursuits, at Paris, I had a favorable opportunity of confirming my thoughts on the nature of this disorder by observation, and of assuring myself of its real existence from the opening of the bodies of two persons, whose complaints were brought on them by an unlimited use of the venereal pleasures.

DISSEC-



## DISSECTION 1st.

MADAME la Marquis de —, a lady of great distinction, and one of the most gallant in the gay capital, had linger'd for three years, under the cruel tyranny of a severe disorder, which her physicians call'd *les fleurs blanches*. Every remedy was administer'd which art could devise, to rid her of so disagreeable a complaint, but in vain; the disorder subduing all their effects, she at last fell a victim to its baneful influence. Her parents surprized at the obstinacy of the complaint, and thinking its cause to be something preternatural, were desirous that the body should be open'd, to which the physicians and surgeons, who had attended her in her illness, were also equally inclined. The day was fixed, and my friend was engaged for the anatomical part. He offer'd me to be present, to which I with pleasure consented, as the object promised to furnish something new for medical speculation.

On opening the breast, the lungs and heart were not apparently affected. We found the stomach considerably increased in its volume, as if it had been distended by wind, the liver appeared in its natural state, the intestines were perfectly free from any appearance of infection, and also both the kidneys. As we came to the uterus, we found a most melancholy scene of this disorder.—The whole bulk of the matrix, with the vagina, were form'd into one general large tumor, all the rugæ of this organ were obliterated, and also the os tincæ. Several hydatides were discover'd in its substances, from some of which ouzed out a fetid ichor, from others a mucus, having the appearance and consistence of a jelly, and some of them were schirrusses, whose matter was almost formed into a thick compact horny substance. The tumor was so general, that it was not possible to distinguish any thing of the original form of the uterus, the position of it was displaced and thrown on one side, bearing with

it the general contents. The ovaria were in a perfect state. The bladder and rectum had considerably suffer'd from the pressure of the uterus, and the patient had, in the latter part of her disorder, been greatly troubled with a difficulty of voiding both the urine and excrement. One of the tumors, which was of the steatomose kind, was exceedingly large, and occupied great part of the uterus. In short, it could no longer be a matter of doubt, that the disorder had taken its rise in this organ, and that its progress must have occasioned the death of the patient.

#### DISSECTION 2d.

**T**HE wife of a merchant who had long been in the southern parts of America, and had been troubled with an incessant flowing of a white or yellow matter from the vagina, came to Europe in that situation to be treated for it. The disorder resisted the force of  
the



the common remedies administered in these cases, and degenerated into several tumors of the scirrhus kind. These at last became so numerous, that the patient tired out with different treatments, gave way to her disorder, and became at last a victim to its ravages.

The body was open'd by desire of the parents.—In the dissection we found the principal viscera, namely the lungs, heart, liver, stomach, in a perfect healthy appearance, so were also the pancreas, kidneys, mesentery and bowels. But the tumor of the matrix was so enormous as to have misplaced great part of the intestines, the bladder and the uterus. It occupied a space almost as far as the umbilical region, in which we found an inconceivable number of tumors of different kinds, tho' chiefly scirrhus.

## C A S E 1st.

**A** Young gentleman had been for a long time under the care of a surgeon, for a probable infection from a woman having the pudentagra, as his complaints were only a gentle ouzing of a white ichor from the urethra, with a very slight degree of inflammation. The surgeon, however, not making the proper distinction, treated it as venereal, and began by drastic purges; after four or five days, he administer'd the mercurius dulcis with jalap, which, as the patient was difficult to purge, he increased the dose, 'till he had produced, as he thought, a sufficient evacuation. By such medicines the running became thin and limpid, and very profuse in quantity. The mercury, however, was not discontinued, and the running began to augment, attended with a great debility of the parts of generation. The surgeon imagining the virus to be at present sufficiently eradicated,

licated, and that it was now the proper epocha to administer the astringent medicines, he order'd the bals-copaib, on sugar, which prov'd ineffectual. His next intention was to increase the power of the astringent medicines, by combining the terra-japon with the bolus armena, and forming them into pills, with the bals-canadens. After each bolus he was order'd to take twenty drops of his bals-copaib.—The desired effect, however, was not produced from this prescription.

In this situation he applied to me, thinking his surgeon imposed on him. I assured him it was very possible that his surgeon might have acted with the strictest honor, but that he had probably mistaken a slight infection produced from copulation with a woman having the pudendagra, for a venereal infection. I beg'd him to inform me if he had any reason to suspect that the running was first occasioned by a recent taint, from a person infected with the venereal  
virus.



virus. He answer'd, that from the great precautions he had always taken, he could not think it was venereal, and had told his surgeon so in the beginning of his treatment; that the person with whom he had the intrigue was married, (a very slight crime among the French) and therefore he could not suspect her of any infection; besides, when he reproach'd her with the consequence, she was exceedingly angry, and so piqued, that she would never see him afterwards.

I could judge no otherways, but that the lady had had some affection of the matrix, produced from the bad disposition of the uterine nerves, or some of those causes which we have so often enumerated. However, relative to the cure, the only indication was to invigorate the debilitated organs, and give a degree of strength and force to the whole nervous system.

I order'd him first a gentle vomit of the tartar-emetic, gr. ij. dissolved in a pint of  
K
water,

water, drinking a sufficient quantity only to excite a gentle evacuation.—The next day he was purged with a mild *minorative*. And I then order'd him the following bolus to be taken morning and evening, to be increased occasionally.

*Rp.* Pulver quinquinæ drachmam dimidium, croc. mart. adstring. gr. iv. fyrupi absynth. q. s. f. bolus.

He was order'd likewise to drink a pint of Seltzer water with an equal quantity of milk every morning, using moderate exercise.—This course continued for a fortnight, he began to recover his color, and the running had a more favorable appearance. Two grains of the *cinnamomum acutum* were added to each bolus, and the Seltzer waters were left off for those of Passy.—He continued daily to improve, so that I could assure him, as the spring was advancing, he would soon be cured, provided he abstained from venery.

—The

—The cure was completed by the use of the kermes-minereal, made into pills with manna.

CASE the 2d.

A Young Gentleman with whom I was particularly connected at Paris, had an amour with a young married woman of Flanders, who came to the capital on a law suit. Her cheeks were of that florid vermillion which indicate health and desire. The husband, who was very rigid, was obliged to stay in the country on account of his affairs, so that she found herself in full liberty at Paris: and indeed she did not fail to make use of it.

She indulged very much in the use of coffee, (which is generally a French winter breakfast) and eat of rich ragouts with the greatest profusion, keeping at the same time very late hours. In short, she was as gay as her fortune would allow. A married woman, handsome



and young, will not long want admirers: to whom, however, she was very reserved at the beginning; but favor'd more particularly my friend, and he arriv'd at last to be *l'amant de la nuit*.

One day he came to me in a great passion, saying he was undone and ruined, and had caught an infection from his Flemish mistress; what vexed him most was, his friend who had had the same favors granted, escaped without any thing.—As I was perfectly acquainted with the whole party, no venereal taint was any way to be suspected. I was assured of the sagacity of the young men, and my friend, who was the confident of his mistress, knew her whole connections, and the persons who came to visit her, so that although she was guilty of infidelities, he had the satisfaction to know with whom.

This infection appeared the fourth day after he had had an opportunity of gathering  
the

the rose for the first time. Round the mouth of the uterus was an exceeding slight degree of redness, from which a small bulb of a white unconcocted mucus began to issue out through the urinary passage. No pain had been felt in the part previous to its appearance, or was there any on making water. In fact, the symptoms were so slight, that it did not deserve the name of an infection. The lady was so much frightened, that she consented (for fear of her husband) to be examined by a surgeon, who was call'd for the purpose. He found the parts intirely free from the least appearance of external inflammation, or any symptoms of a venereal virus, in consequence of which the surgeon pronounced the lady to be free from any venereal taint. But yet how was it possible to reconcile the infection my friend received with the assertions of our surgeon. It was evident the infection could come from no other person than the Flemish lady, because he had for more than nine months previous to that affair intirely abstained

abstained from women. In the examination I thought to myself that I could perceive the causes of an incipient pudendagra. For although there was no degree of inflammation, yet I could perceive the parts wanted that due tone and firmness which appears in the healthful state of the uterus. All was flaccid and relaxed, and a thin watry ichor issued out near the carunculæ myrtiformes when pressed, but in so slight a degree, as not to leave any stain on the linen. Convinced however of my opinion being true, I began the treatment of my friend by a different method than I should have done had the infection been venereal, and his cure succeeded to my wish. Aromatic medicines were principally administer'd.

### CASE the 3d.

A Gentleman was obliged to absent himself from Paris, on particular business relating to his family. He intended to stay a fortnight, but remained six weeks from the capital.



capital. Returning home to a wife of whom he was passionately fond, he indulged himself with very little discretion in the pleasures of matrimony. The lady, who had been subject to the fluor-albus, had the time of its appearance, and the catamenia considerably anticipated.—Four or five days afterwards the husband complained to me of a running of a white matter from the urethra, which he attributed to a venereal infection, given him by his wife.—The constancy and chastity of the lady being call'd in question, had like to have proved of disagreeable consequence to the married couple. The husband tortured with anxiety, as suspecting the virtue of a woman on whom he had doated to excess, absented himself from home, and from the society of his wife. It was in this interval I saw him,—Not the least appearance of any inflammation could be discover'd on the glans, the urine was made as in the state of health. I suspected the occasion of his disorder, gave him a gentle laxative of manna,

na, dissolved in an infusion of chamomile flowers, sweetned with the solutive sirrup of roses. The same medicine repeated four days afterwards, left him intirely free from any complaint.

I took so much precaution to inform myself of every circumstance relative to the above cases, that I am certain there was no previous infection but what had its origin from some one of those causes which I have assign'd as the characteristic of the pudendagra.

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E R R A T A.

Page 4. line 15. *for deprivation read an excess in.*  
 —P. 8. l. 10. *f. contagionem r. contagium.*—P. 11.  
 l. 9. *f. productem, r. productum.*—P. 13. l. 20. *f.*  
*seems proper r. seem proper.*